

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-34 are pending in this application. In light of the amendments and remarks contained herein, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections.

In the outstanding Official Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 6-19, 26 and 32-34 under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Shiomi Kakuichi (Japanese Publication No. 06-167564). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for allowing claims 2-25. Applicant further wishes to thank the Examiner for indicating claims 2-5, 14-15 and 27-31 contain allowable subject matter.

By this amendment, Applicant has amended claims 1, 3, and 26 to more appropriately recite the present invention. It is respectfully submitted that these amendments are being made without conceding the propriety of the Examiner's rejection, but to merely timely advance prosecution of present application.

By this amendment, Applicant has amended claim 1 to include the features of allowable claim 2. Additionally, Applicant has amended claim 26 to recite "wherein ratios for consideration of the plural displacements are changed with respect to the specific

region", an element that is not disclosed by Kakuichi or the other prior art of the record as indicated by the Examiner.

Based upon these amendments, it is respectfully submitted that all pending claims contain allowable subject matter. It is respectfully requested that the Examiner pass the instant application through to allowance.

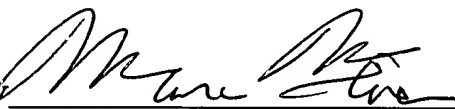
CONCLUSION

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Catherine M. Voisinnet (Reg. No. 52,327) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.


If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By 

Marc S. Weiner, #32,181
P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000


MSW/CMV/lab/mlr
3562-0107P

filed to
4/29/04